



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	PAWS Fuel Reduction Maintenance		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Sections 18 and 19 Township 4 North, Range 12 East, MDBM Near the Community of San Andreas	COUNTY	Calaveras
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire)		
CONTACT	Alan Peters		
ADDRESS	CalFire's Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit Headquarters 785 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249	PHONE	(209) 754-2709

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This maintenance project involves the use of goats to consume sprouting vegetation to maintain an area 53 acres in size in a defensible condition with respect to fire hazards. Goats will be kept in small portable enclosures until 70-80 percent of the sprouting vegetation is consumed. The sprouting vegetation is approximately 2-3 feet tall.

The original project completed in 2007 was named the PAWS Fuel Reduction Project. It involved the use of a masticator to shred thick brush, and the use of hand crews to manually thin and prune trees for the purpose of fire hazard abatement. The largest and most fire resistant trees were retained. The entire 53-acre project area is behind locked gates on the PAWS (Performing Animal Welfare Society) facility. CalFire was the Lead Agency on the original fuels reduction project in 2007. An environmental review was conducted prior to the project and a Notice of Exemption (SCH #2007048203) was filed on April 25, 2007. The original project description did not include the use of goats for maintenance activities; therefore this goat maintenance work is being considered a separate project on the same 53-acre pair of treatment units with a new NOE and a new SCH number.

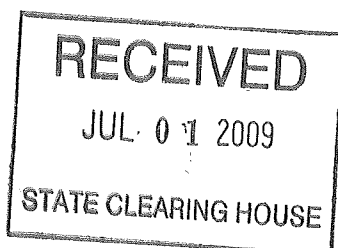
EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4, §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
7, and 8 §15307 Actions to Protect Natural Resources
§15308 Actions to Protect the Environment
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits within the descriptions for Class 4, 7, and 8 Categorical Exemptions to CEQA. This project involves only fuels treatment work done through the use of goats on a landscape previously treated with a masticator in 2007. This is clearly a minor alteration of land. As the project is being implemented to maintain an area of fire hazard abatement and maintaining it in a defensible condition, this project also meets the descriptions for actions to protect natural resources and the environment. The Unit has completed an environmental review to support this Notice of Exemption and has confirmed that no unusual conditions or sensitive resources exist which would preclude the use of a Categorical Exemption.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



William E. Snyder 6/30/09
William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date